

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Office Action dated December 2, 2005. Claims 1-134 are pending in the application. The Examiner has objected to the claims based on informalities. The Examiner has also rejected claims 1, 17, 33, 55-57, 65, 66, 76, 77, 88, and 89 as being unpatentable over claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 17, 104-106, 110, 111, 116, 125, 126, 128, 129, 131, and 132 of co-pending Application No. 10/816,542. Applicants believe all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all claims.

I. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 17, and 33 for lack of antecedent basis. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 17 and 33 such that an antecedent basis has been provided by changing the word "the" to "an" where it precedes the "the inside bounding point" language.

The Examiner has objected to claims 3-5, 19-21, 35-37, 64-66, 75-66, and 87-89 stating that "the units recited thereon, '0.5'", should be spelled out, "--0.5 inches--." Applicants have amended each of these claims in response to the Examiner's objections to recite "inches" in words rather than by symbol.

Applicants also note that the original application included two separate claims numbered as claim 65. Applicant has cancelled the second claim 65 and added new claim 135, which is identical to cancelled claim 65, with the exception that "inches" has now been spelled out.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

II. Double Patenting Rejection over Claims 1, 17, 33, 55-57, 65, 66, 76, 77, 88, and 89

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1, 17, 33, 55-57, 65, 66, 76, 77, 88, and 89 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 17, 104-106, 110, 111, 116, 125, 126, 128, 129, 131, and 132 of co-pending Application No. 10/816,542 under the doctrine of double patenting. If application Serial No. 10/816,542 issues as a patent, Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer to obviate this provisional rejection.

III. Conclusion

Claims 1-135 are pending. All pending claims are believed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections are respectfully requested. Applicants believe that this is a full and complete response to each rejection, objection and any other requirements. If any item has been overlooked, Applicants respectfully request the opportunity to supplement this response.

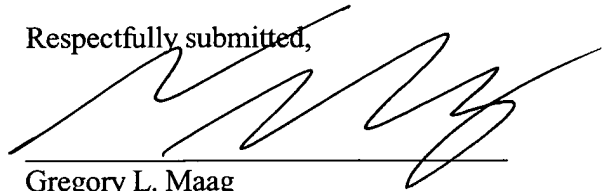
Applicants' attorney may have at times referred to claim limitations in short-hand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element in these remarks. These remarks should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations of the claims can be ignored or dismissed. Instead, each claim must be viewed in its entirety, and each of its limitations be considered when determining the patentability of that claim.

The format of this Amendment in Response to Office Actions is believed and intended to conform with the Revised Amendment Practice as described in "Changes to Implement Electronic Maintenance of Official Patent Application Records," 68 Fed. Reg. 38611 (June 30, 2003).

Should any fees have been inadvertently omitted, or if any additional fees are required, or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit to those fees to Deposit Account No. 03-2769 of Conley Rose, P.C., Houston, Texas and consider this paper a petition for any necessary extension of time.

If any issues remain unresolved, Applicants respectfully request a telephonic Examiner Interview to facilitate the resolution of such matters.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory L. Maag
Reg. No. 32,363
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
P. O. Box 3267
Houston, Texas 77253-3267
(713) 238-8000
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT